**Romeo & Juliet Webquest English9**

by William Snyder   
**Directions:**

**About Shakespeare**  
Click on [this link](http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/timeline/timeline.htm) and answer the following questions (1-7).

1. Click on the link to Birth 1564 & Early Years. William Shakespeare was born in what year?
   * 1. 1564
2. What date do we recognize as his birthday?
   * 1. St. George’s day
3. What was important about Stratford-upon-Avon in the 16th century?
   * 1. It was an agricultural center
4. Click on the link for 1594 and find the acting companies Shakespeare was associated with in the early days. Name one.
   * 1. The queen’s men, was one of the companies.
5. Click on 1599 The Great Globe. What is the probable year that Romeo and Juliet was written?
   * 1. 1595 was the year he possibly wrote Romeo and Juliet.
6. Scroll down to the section "Construction of the Globe," and answer these questions:
   1. Where did the timbers to build the Globe come from?
   2. Who was the carpenter who built the Globe?
      1. Peter Smith was the carpenter who built the globe.
   3. What was Shakespeare's share as "householder?"
      1. 10% of profits go to him as a householder.
7. What day and year did Shakespeare die? Why is this an *interesting* date? How old was Shakespeare when he died?
   * 1. He died on his birthday he was 52.

**About Marriage**  
Click on [this link](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/9.html) and answer the next questions (8-10).

1. Romeo & Juliet marry secretly, but because she is trying to escape the arranged marriage to Paris. Read this site about marriage in Elizabethan England and answer these questions.
   1. What does betrothal mean?
      1. At a betrothal, the two people join hands. He gives her a ring to be worn on the right hand. It changes to the left at the wedding
   2. Name three marriage and betrothal customs found on this page.
      1. consent, exchange of tokens (such as the ring) and consummation. It can be annulled only if it is not consummated. It is luckiest to have the wedding before noon.
2. Click on the link for "more wedding customs."
   1. What color should the bride's dress be?
      1. It should be A bride is not expected to wear a white dress. It can be any fashionable or current color and cut. White as a color for brides does not become entrenched until the 19th century.
   2. How is the intention to marry announced? What happens if it is not announced previous to the event?
      1. They will have it announced 3 times on 3 consecutive Sundays. Any marriage not published is considered clandestine.
   3. Describe the wedding procession.
      1. Any bridesmaids help the bride to prepare, then they, the bride, the groom, the families, and all the guests assemble, and go in procession from the house or houses to the church. The bridal procession is generally noisy, accompanied by musicians, laughter, and bawdy jokes. Town councils have been known to complain about the noise and general disorder. If the groom is not part of the procession, he meets the bride either at the side door of the church or at the altar. They all enter the church at once and stand through the ritual. The wedding is always a religious ceremony, conducted by a minister.
   4. What is a dowry?
      1. It’s the amount of money, goods and property the brides brings to the wedding
3. Explain how important is a wedding ring to the Elizabethans?

**About Food**  
Click on [this link](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/46.html) and continue (11-13).

1. How many meals do people generally eat each day?
   1. Two meals a day
2. Click [here](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/38.html). Why would people in Shakespeare's day not know what a chocolate chip cookie is?
   1. Chocolate has not yet come in, except for medicinal purposes. The Swiss have not yet added milk and sugar to it. If you have ever tasted chocolate it was a thin and bitter drink, probably flavored with chiles.
3. Lord Capulet throws a huge party, feast and all. Imagine you are in charge of that menu. Luckily for you, today you only have to plan a menu for a small dinner party. Be sure to use only [food available in Europe](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/47.html) during this time. Choose at least two vegetables, two meats, and two fruits or nuts.

**About Language**  
Click on [this link](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/20.html) and continue (14-16).

1. A famous line from Romeo and Juliet is when Juliet says, "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" What does "wherefore" mean?
   1. Wherefore means why.
2. What does "stay" mean?
   1. To wait means stay
3. [Click here](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/29.html) to get the information you need to translate this conversation. Put your translation in column two. Keep the phrases just about the same, but use Elizabethan words where you can. So, in other words, you rewrite the entire phrase but replace as many words as you can using Elizabethan English.

|| **Person A** || Hello. (A sneezes) Excuse me. || ||

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Person B** | Gesundheit!- GOD SAVE YOU! |  |
| **A** | Thank you. I THNAK THEE |  |
| **B** | Say, do you know where the closest bathroom is?- | DO U KNOW WHERE THE Ajax IS? | |
| **A** | Certainly. It's down the street in the Kings Tavern.-CERTES! ITS DOWN THE STREET IN KINGS TAVERN |  |
| **B** | Thanks. Goodbye.-MY THANKS GOODBYE |  |

**About Theatre in Shakespeare's Time**  
"[Actors, Acting, & Audience](http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/englisch/shakespeare/)" is the link for the next questions (16-19).

1. How many women actors did the company usually feature?
   1. There were never any women in the plays
2. Was Shakespeare an actor? What was the term used to refer to actors?
   1. Yes he was an actor. The term actor is a person who travels a lot for money
3. How were the seating arrangements for the audience? How did one get a good seat?
   1. If they had high power/wealth they received good seats
4. What would the audience do if they did not like a performance?
   1. They would boo and throw things to get them off the stage

**Shakespearean Insults**

1. Go to the [Shakespearean Insult Kit](http://www.mit.edu:8001/people/dryfoo/Funny-pages/shakespeare-insult-kit.html) and create your own insult. How you do it is to start with the word "Thou." Next, take a phrase/word from the first column to begin your insult, continue by adding something from the second column, and finish it up royally with something from the third column. Type your own personal Shakespearean insult in the table below. [Thou + choice from column 1 + choice from column 2 + choice from column 3 = your custom made insult].
   1. Thou vein pox-marked giglet.